



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA EMERALD ASH BORER AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, ash trees in Virginia (*Fraxinus americana* and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) are a significant tree species, contributing to improved air quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, tourism and increased land values;


WHEREAS, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is a destructive exotic beetle that was first discovered in the United States in 2002 and is now threatening valued ash resources in the Commonwealth and the U.S.;

WHEREAS, increasing public awareness and understanding of EAB benefits the Commonwealth by reducing the movement of firewood, logs, nursery stock and other articles which can harbor the pest and the movement of which can result in the artificial spread of EAB to uninfested areas of Virginia and the U.S.;

WHEREAS, spring marks the beginning of the tourism and camping season in Virginia. Campers are encouraged to leave their firewood at home and purchase it at their camping destination. Buying local firewood eliminates the primary way in which EAB is moved long distances and can prove vital in protecting our ash resources;

WHEREAS, Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week provides an opportunity for Virginians to join forces with business, industry, environmental groups, community organizations and other citizens to protect the eight billion ash trees in the United States by preventing the introduction and spread of EAB;

Now, therefore, I, **Robert F. McDonnell, Governor of Virginia**, do hereby proclaim the week of May 23 - 29, 2010 as Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in Virginia, and encourage all citizens and visitors to increase their understanding and awareness of EAB and its environmental, ecological and economic impact on the forests of our Commonwealth and the nation.


Robert F. McDonnell
Governor